



Missouri Gaming Commission

Memo

To: All Bingo Licensees
From: The Missouri Gaming Commission
Date: March 11, 2020
Re: 2020 Information

Please keep in mind that forms and general information can be found on our website www.mgc.dps.mo.gov under the Charitable Games tab.

Rule books - We are still awaiting final changes to two rules before we mail out new rule books to all regular bingo licensees. We are hopeful new books will be mailed to you in the fall of 2020. In the meantime, you can access the current rules and regulations under the Charitable Games tab on the website. Please call the office if you are unclear on a rule.

COVID-19 Virus – To help stop the spread of coronavirus, U.S. public health officials have urged people to follow the steps they would normally follow to avoid the seasonal flu such as washing their hands with soap and water and/or using hand sanitizer. We urge you to take proactive steps like washing down tables, chairs, and electronic bingo card monitoring devices frequently, encouraging volunteers to wash their hands, and having hand sanitizer available throughout the bingo hall for patron use. The CDC website (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/covid19) provides essential information on the COVID-19 virus and outlines steps to follow to help prevent the spread of this virus. Please understand these are just recommendations, and we believe they are best practices. If your organization elects to cancel bingo for more than two weeks, due to this issue or any other reason, please notify our office of the closure immediately.

Illegal gambling – The Missouri Gaming Commission has regulatory responsibility and authority over bingo licensees. We note that some organizations may feel frustration if they see other organizations who are not bingo licensees hosting Texas Hold'em tournaments, casino nights, or other types of promotions. For non-bingo licensees, those matters are issues for local law enforcement to determine whether they want to pursue criminal charges for those activities. In addition to the potential exposure for criminal charges, if a bingo licensee hosts a Texas Hold'em game, poker game, casino night, or any other type of fundraiser, or allows any other organization to host such games on the licensee's premises, it puts the bingo or hall licensee at risk for disciplinary actions such as suspensions, fines, or revocation of their license.

Before you engage in any activity that may jeopardize your bingo license, please contact us at 573-526-5370 or toll free at 866-801-8643 to ensure that you are not risking your license by unknowingly engaging in illegal activity.